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For Immediate Release

IOWA TEACHER A FINALIST FOR NATIONAL HONOR

(DES MOINES, Iowa) – January 12, 2005 – Iowa's Teacher of the Year, Vicki Goldsmith from Des Moines Roosevelt High School, has been named a finalist for the National Teacher of the Year award, according to the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), which administers the program.

Goldsmith has taught English and other courses at Roosevelt for 16 years and has 39 years of teaching experience. Colleagues praise her strong commitment to students and the process of learning, and her ability and willingness to reach out to a wide variety of students. She was chosen as Iowa Teacher of the Year following a nomination process and interviews through the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa State Education Association, and Iowa Association of School Boards.

"Vicki has earned this honor for exemplifying the most important aspects of high school teaching," said Governor Tom Vilsack. "She provides rigorous coursework that is meaningful to students, in the context of a supportive relationship that motivates students, and that is a key responsibility we all have in helping students succeed during school and beyond."

"Vicki's commitment to teaching and impact on her students help demonstrate the importance of teachers who are well-trained and caring," said Department of Education Director Judy Jeffrey. "They make the difference for so many students, particularly in high school, when the right course or word of encouragement can inspire a student to take new and different paths."

A panel of educators, representing 14 national education organizations, chose the four national finalists and will select the 2005 National Teacher of the Year to be announced in the week of April 18, 2005 by President George W. Bush. The three finalists in addition to Goldsmith are high school teachers from Washington, DC, Washington, and California.

The National Teacher of the Year Program is a project of the CCSSO, a bipartisan, nationwide, nonprofit organization of public officials who head departments of elementary and secondary education in the states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and five U.S. extra-state jurisdictions. The program is sponsored by Scholastic Inc., the global children's publishing and media company.

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